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SEEKS TO OVERCOME NEPHEW'S PREJUDICE

Emperor Francis Joseph Bestows Post of Inspector-General Upon His Apparent.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.
EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH, by way of allaying any dissatisfaction that his nephew and heir apparent, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, may have felt at his virtual exclusion from any further share in the direction of the government, has just bestowed upon him the post of inspector-general of all the armed forces of Austria-Hungary, naval as well as military, a post which has been vacant since the death of old Archduke Albert, victor of Custoza, and uncle of the Emperor. He has also conferred upon the archduke's morganatic wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg, the Grand Cross of the Order of Elizabeth, which he founded in 1898, in honor of the memory of his murdered consort.

The bestowal of this distinction upon the duchess, has served to call attention to the fact that, although possessed by all the princesses of the reigning house, and by a number of women of the aristocracy, including Princess Pauline Metternich and Princess Hedwig Sapieha, it has not hitherto been granted to the former Countess Chotek.

As inspector-general of the army and navy, Archduke Francis Ferdinand becomes the ranking officer of both forces, and the alter ego of the sovereign as commander-in-chief. Since last spring the Emperor has resumed complete control of the reins of government, which he commenced to surrender to his nephew some four years ago, and which had been almost wholly abandoned to the archduke during his, the Emperor's, illness last year. Ministers have ceased to report to the archduke or to consult his views, and it is to make up for this that the Emperor has now bestowed these honors upon his nephew and upon the latter's morganatic wife.

Francis's new ambassador to Japan, Eugene Reuss, formerly minister plenipotentiary at Tanger, and who since Morocco has become a French protectorate, has been at the head of the civil staff of General Lyantey, the resident general of the Moroccan Empire. The greater part of his official career has, however, been spent either in the consular corps, or as one of the secretaries of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Paris. It is through him, however, that he is a tactful and agreeable man, which is more than can be said for his predecessor. For Auguste Gerard, who has just been placed on the retired list, is though brilliant and gifted, one of the most atrocious, irritable, and sour-tempered men that it is possible to conceive.

Gerard first won his spurs under the pen name of "Count Vassili," as the author of "Berlin Society," the most cruelly true portrayal that has ever been published of court life in the Prussian capital. He obtained his knighthood of Berlin society, and the court there, through his position as French reader to the late Empress Augusta, during the period immediately following the war of 1870, just at the time when the Germans were in the first enthusiasm of their victories over the French. It is perfectly natural that as a Frenchman his position was far from comfortable, despite the kindness of the old Emperor. But his book on Berlin society gives expression to a bitterness against everything in his environment while at the Prussian court, which is almost beyond belief.

His writings commended him to the notice of Gambetta, who, together with Mme. Adam, proprietress of the "Non-Ville Revue," in which his articles on Berlin first appeared, secured for him a position in the diplomatic service, and subsequently rapid promotion. In every post that he has filled since then he has managed to quarrel with the people about him, and, indeed, his promotion to the rank of ambassador to Japan was due to the fact that he had rendered his continued sojourn as envoy at Peking impossible.

There is only one foreign club in the Chinese capital, which is composed almost exclusively of the diplomatic corps, with a small sprinkling of European and American officials in the Chinese service. Gerard took offense at the absence of any French names from some of the committees, and with the object of marking his displeasure, acting on the impulse of a moment of irritation, wrote a letter resigning his membership of the club, which was accepted.

Contrary to his anticipation, no steps

were taken to induce him to withdraw his letter, and after about three weeks, realizing that he was hurting himself more than he was the club by keeping away from it, he coolly made his way thither, and established himself in the reading-room, just as if nothing had happened, being all the more glad to find himself there once more, as it is the only place in Peking where one can get a glimpse at all the American and European newspapers.

His arrival caused no little stir in the club, and it was not long before the president of the institution approached him, and called his attention to the fact that the reading-room was restricted exclusively to the use of members of the club, and that as the envoy no longer formed part thereof, his presence there was contrary to the regulations. He added, that for the occasion the club would regard His Excellency as its guest, but that he begged that he would not place him again under the necessity of reminding him of the existence of the regulations.

Instead of taking the matter quietly, Gerard raised his voice, lost his temper, blustered, and intimated that as a foreign minister he had a perfect right to make use of the club, whether he was a member or not. In fact, his attitude became such that the president and several members of the committee, who had been attracted by the noise, felt themselves constrained to demand that he should leave the premises without further delay, which he proceeded to do, and before an hour had elapsed he received a letter from the president, stating that in view of what had taken place, His Excellency could no longer be permitted to cross the threshold of the club, even as a guest. Gerard insisted that all the members of his legation staff should sever their connection with the club, greatly to their disgust, since it involved them in the boycotting to which he was subjected.

A slight of this kind quickly becomes known among the natives at Peking. When they see a foreigner treated with contumely by the members of his race, they are not slow to take their cue therefrom. The consequence was that the position of Gerard at Peking became absolutely untenable; while his prestige as an envoy was so cruelly impaired that his usefulness from a diplomatic point of view was ended in the Chinese capital. That was why he was transferred to Tokyo.

While Gerard is the author of "Society of Berlin," the other volumes of the series, dealing with society in St. Petersburg, Madrid, London, Rome, Vienna and Paris, were not from his pen, though they appeared under the same name of "Count Vassili," and are wrongly credited to him.

They were written by a very clever Russian Jew journalist, who called himself M. de Cyon, who was for a time special agent in Paris of the Russian Minister of Finance Wychegradski, but who was subsequently dismissed in disgrace by Count Witte, when the latter became chief of the Russian Treasury Department. De Cyon was associated with Mme. Adam in many of her literary enterprises, but became involved in questionable pecuniary transactions in Paris, and died, completely discredited, and under a cloud, not long ago.

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BIG VALUES

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SCOTCH MOORS ARE STILL A LURE TO AMERICANS

Ambassador Page Is Studying People, but His Compatriots Are Shooting Grouse.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) London, September 6.—Ambassador Page has left London for a fortnight's tour of England and Scotland with his wife and daughter. Mr. Page hopes to study the customs of the people in unfrequented parts of the country. He says he always wanted to make such a trip. This seems to be his opportunity. Before leaving, Mr. Page gave a dinner for Lloyd C. Griscom, who has been touring Europe, making a stay at Aix-les-Bains.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt have passed several days on the west coast of Scotland in his yacht, "North Star," and occasionally landing for Mr. Vanderbilt to do a little grouse shooting. They have returned to the Carlton and will give a couple of dinner parties. Mrs. Vanderbilt will shop a few days before they sail for New York.

Meeting of MacLaines.

MacLaine of Lochbuie, who, since his vaudeville appearance in America, has been staying at Loggan Lodge, in the island of Mull, has just given a variety entertainment at the Oban cinematograph theatre. The natives were enraptured. MacLaine is the head of the Lochbuie branch of his clan, but the head of the whole clan is Sir Fitzroy Donald MacLean, who was at MacLaine last week at Innismore Lodge, the residence of Mrs. G. C. Cheape. It was the first meeting of a MacLaine of Lochbuie with a MacLean of Duart for 200 years, an event so important that the entire neighborhood, including the Duchess of Westminster and Colonel and Mrs. Cornwallis West, who were staying with Mrs. Cheape, came to witness it.

Young Marlboroughs Shooters.

The Duchess of Marlborough has gone to Achnashallach Lodge, Ross-shire, which she rents with its grouse moors and deer forest. Here the duchess leads the quietest life, entertaining only her most intimate friends, nearly all Americans. The duchess is not fond of shooting lodge life, preferring to stay at North Berwick, the quietest of watering places. She rents Achnashallach only for her two sons, who are crazy about grouse shooting. Lee McClung, former United States Treasurer, who was the guest of Sir Alexander Cross at Marchbank Wood, Dumfriesshire, has left for an auto tour of Northern Scotland.

The Duchess of Roxburghe is staying at Templeton, Roxhampton, until the end of this month, when she will join the duke at Floors Castle.

Mrs. Paget Lets Her Place.

Mrs. Almeric Paget, who was Pauline Whitney, has let "Deepdene" for several months and gone to the Continent. Countess Decies, nee Gould, will leave Carlsbad in a few days for Ireland.

Lady Naylor Leyland, nee Chamberlain, has left her Hyde Park house for Nantelwyd, her home in Wales. Lady Cheylesmore, who was Miss Elizabeth French, is spending the shooting season at Easter Elphinstone, in the county of Perth, and will entertain a series of house parties.

Mrs. Bradley Martin, who arrived in England last week, has gone to Balmaculan, Scotland, where she has been joined by Lord and Countess Craven, her daughter. Mrs. Martin will entertain a few friends occasionally, but no large parties on account of her mourning.

Lady Maxwell has returned to No. 7 Grosvenor Palace, from Pierson Court, Worcester, where she went to attend the funeral of her father, Charles W. Bonnyng.

Goulds Have Good Sport.

George Jay Gould, with whom are George and Kingston Gould, is enjoying good sport on Appin and Foss moors, Castle Menzies. Last Monday five guns, including Lord Decies, shot 200 brace of grouse.

Sir Henry and Lady Seton Carr and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lewisohn are among Howard Gould's shooting party at Dunkeld House.

Robert Golet has left here for the Continent.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Young have been spending a few days at the Ritz, where they have arrived Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Phipps, from Scotland. Frank A. Munsey did considerable theatre-going and entertaining before sailing on the Olympic.

Ogden Mills has gone to Paris. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wyndham have met many old friends made during Mr. Wyndham's service as American consul-general. They have also visited their children, who are at school in London. Charles Steele and his family have gone to Paris.

Frederick Townsend Martin has left to join his sister and the Cravens in Scotland.

OVER \$10,000,000 GRAFT IS CHARGED

Stolen by Russian Officials Building Amur River Railway. Thefts in Dockyards.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) Odessa, September 6.—More than \$10,000,000 has been stolen by government officials, it is charged, in building the new line of the Amur River Railway. M. Kharitonenko, the imperial comptroller, is personally investigating the railway's financial administration.

Some 12,000 convicts have been working on the new line, and thousands of these convict-laborers have been carried on the pay rolls. It is said.

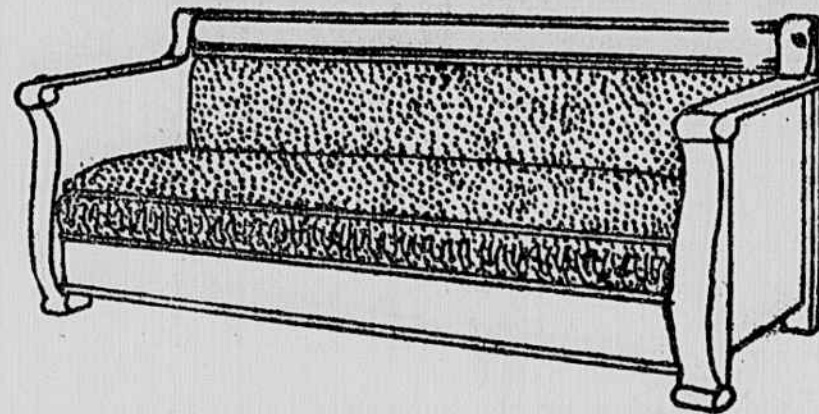
There has been barefaced grafting, too, at the naval dockyards at Nicolaieff. An official commission has just been appointed to learn where \$4,250,000 expended on the admiralty yards in twenty months has gone. M. Dimitieff, the director-in-chief of construction of the Black Sea dreadnoughts, was dismissed from his post at Nicolaieff a few days ago. He received a salary of \$60,000 a year, but it did not satisfy him, it is strongly suspected.

SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS

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You can easily transform your parlor into a comfortable guest chamber with one of these Davenports. Its artistic appearance will do credit to any home. Has none of the earmarks of a bed. These Davenports are equipped with a felt mattress and one motion converts them into a bed. We have them covered in leatherette, velour and muleskin leather.

FROM \$27.50 to \$60.00

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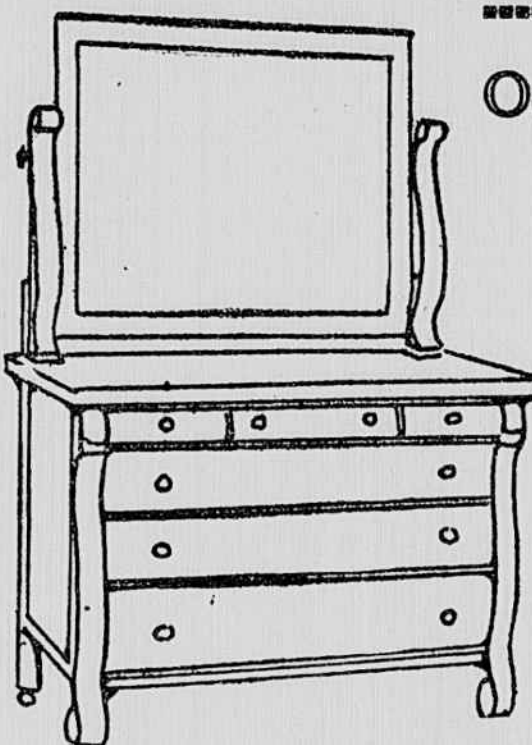
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Dressers . . . \$9.00 to \$90

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Also a large and complete line of matched Bedroom Suits.



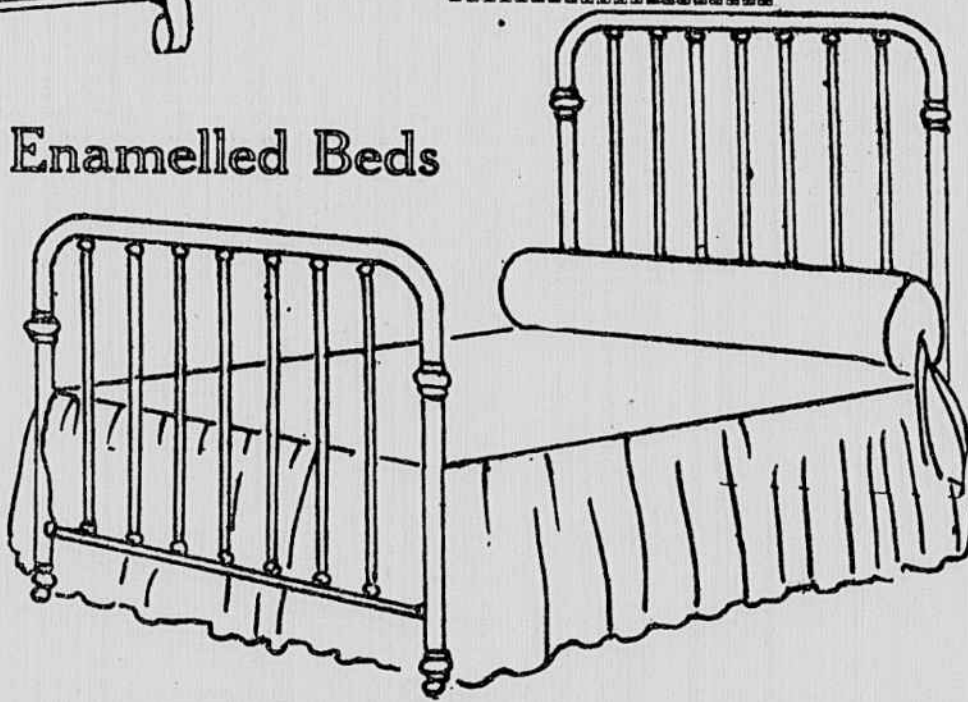
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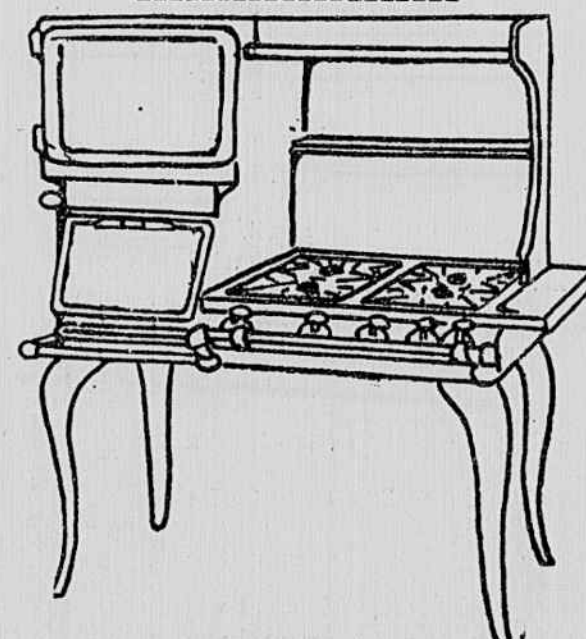
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A large and complete line to select from; all sizes.

\$8.00, \$13.50

\$16.50

10% Discount.



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